

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 /080 W

----- 121666

R 221050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSULATE DOUALA VIA POUCH

CONFIDENTIAL YAOUNDE 0232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CM

SUBJECT: PRE-PARTY CONGRESS RUMORS RE AHIDJO WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) YAOUNDE A-7, JANUARY 20, 1975; (B) YAOUNDE 223

1. SUMMARY. WOMEN'S WING OF PARTY HAS DENOUNCED  
"SUBVERSIVE FORCES" FOMENTING RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT AHIDJO  
PLANNING NOT RPT NOT TO RUN AGAIN FOR OFFICE, AND URGED HIM TO  
ACCEPT RENEWED MANDATE. THIS MOVE INDICATES THAT  
PRESIDENT WILL INDEED REMAIN AT HELM, WHICH SHOULD  
SURPRISE NOBODY.

2. REF A DESCRIBING CAMEROON AND PARTY SITUATION  
ON EVE OF UNC CONGRESS FEB. 10-15 MENTIONS RECENT  
RUMORS THAT AHIDJO FED UP WITH OFFICE AND WILL NOT RPT  
NOT RUN AGAIN FOR PRESIDENT, ALONG WITH EMBASSY COMMENT  
THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO CREDIBLE INDICATIONS THAT HE WILL  
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STEP DOWN. REF B TRANSMITS TEXT OF REF A SUMMARY.

3. THESE RUMORS HAVE NOW BEEN PUBLICLY AIRED FOR FIRST TIME. AT SPECIAL MEETING JAN 20 OF NATIONAL BUREAU OF OFUNC, WOMEN'S WING OF PARTY, OFUNC PRESIDENT (AND VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH) MME. DELPHINE TSANGA DECLAIMED ABOUT OFUNC'S DUTY TO "BREAK DEADLOCK OF CONFUSION AND OF DIVISION AND FRUSTRATE STRATEGY OF SUBVERSIVE FORCES WHICH ARE TRYING TO ORGANIZE IN THE SHADOWS." SHE WENT ON TO SING PRAISES OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND CALLED ON CAMEROONIAN WOMEN TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM AND FOR HIM TO ACCEPT NEW MANDATE OF OFFICE. BUREAU THEN ADOPTED APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT WHICH MENTIONED INTER ALIA "RUMORS CIRCULATING ACCORDING TO WHICH PRESIDENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT A NEW MANDATE," VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED SUCH SUBVERSIVE INTRIGUES, AND URGED HIM IMMEDIATELY TO ACCEPT NEW PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE.

4. IN OBVIOUSLY CONCERTED CAMPAIGN, VARIOUS OFUNC SECTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE PASSED RESOLUTION DURING PAST FEW DAYS URGING PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT NEW MANDATE.

5. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED CAMEROON TRIBUNE JAN 21, MME TSANGA STRESSED WOMEN'S SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT AND DESIRE ENCOURAGE HIM TO CONTINUE HIS GOOD WORK. IN SO DOING, SHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE, AS HUMAN BEING, HAS PERIODS OF DEJECTION, DIFFICULTIES OF ALL SORTS BEING INHERENT IN ANY HUMAN UNDERTAKING."

6. COMMENT. TECHNICALLY THESE VARIOUS OFUNC RESOLUTIONS ARE PREMATURE SINCE NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU TO BE ELECTED AT PARTY CONGRESS WILL NOMINATE UNC'S PRESIDENTIAL "CANDIDATE". BUT PRACTICALLY, THIS OFUNC ACTIVITY, AND ESPECIALLY THE EXPLICIT DENUMCIATION AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU MEETING OF RUMORS THAT AHIDJO WOULD NOT RUN, WOULD SEEM TO SIGNIFY: (A) THAT THE RUMORS ARE INDEED INCORRECT AND THAT AHIDJO DOES INTEND TO RUN AGAIN-- MME. TSANGA WOULD NOT TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE WITHOUT

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THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL; AND (B) THAT THE RUMORS PROBABLY INVOLVE A PURPOSEFUL MEASURE OF ANTI-AHIDJO CONTENT WHICH THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY TAKES SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO MERIT A PUBLIC AIRING AND COUNTER-ATTACK. RUMORS MAY HAVE BEEN SPURRED BY PRESIDENT OCCASIONALLY EVIDENCING DEJECTION (AS IMPLIED PARA 4), AND SPREAD BY ELEMENTS DISCONTENTED WITH HIS STEWARDSHIP. LATTER DO OF COURSE EXIST, BUT AHIDJO--WHILE LACKING IN CHARISMA

--ENJOYS WIDESPREAD RESPECT IF NOT THE AFFECTION OF  
CAMEROONIANS, IS CREDITED WITH BEING THE MASTERFUL ARCHI-  
TECT OF CAMEROONIAN UNITY, AND IS ACCEPTED AS THE LEADER  
WITH UNMATCHED CAPABILITY TO ENHANCE THAT UNITY AND MOVE  
CAMEROON FORWARD.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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